



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS
The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of
The Bureau of Emergency Management
Division of Emergency Services
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DEADLINE NEARS FOR FLOOD ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS – The deadline for New Hampshire flood victims to apply for federal Individual Assistance is December 27th. Once the deadline has passed, there will be NO opportunity to apply for possible financial assistance from the federal government. Of approximately 2,000 New Hampshire households affected by the October floods, only about 700 have applied to FEMA for assistance.

Flood victims must register with FEMA to begin the applications process. Once an applicant has a FEMA registration number, there is an 18 month window to have FEMA assess the damage. It is better to have the registration number and do nothing than not be registered and have problems show up this winter and spring. Registration can take place on-line at www.fema.gov; or by phone at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or for the hearing impaired at 1-800-462-7585 (TTY). Flood victims in Belknap, Cheshire, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack and Sullivan counties are eligible for Individual Assistance.

OPERATION FLOOD RECOVERY GEARS UP – Three Southwest New Hampshire non-profit organizations have teamed up with the Bureau of Emergency Management to provide long-term flood recovery assistance to victims of the October flooding in the state. Monadnock United Way, Southwestern Community Services and the Monadnock Collaborative have joined BEM to form Operation Flood Recovery. Eileen Fernandes is the case manager. She will be working with two Vista volunteers provided by the Red Cross. Operation Flood Recovery has an office at 25 Roxbury Street in Keene. The phone number is 1-888-540-5605. A second office is planned for Alstead. Operation Flood Recovery also accepts cash donations for flood victims.

FEMA FLOOD ASSISTANCE TOPS \$3 MILLION – Financial assistance to New Hampshire flood victims totals more than \$3 million, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA says 708 individuals or families have applied for federal aid. More than 70 percent have been approved for Individual and Households Program grants totaling more than \$937,000. In addition, FEMA has obligated \$1.8 million in Public Assistance to state agencies, local governments and certain non-profits for disaster-related costs and losses. The U.S Small Business administration issued 686 low-interest disaster loans, including 534 loans to homeowners and renters and 152 business loans.

BEM HOSTS INTERNATIONAL EM MEETING – The N.H. Bureau of Emergency Management hosted the International Emergency Management Group (IEMG) in Portsmouth on December 6-8, 2005. IEMG comprises the six New England States, New York and the Eastern Provinces of Canada.

IEMG brings together emergency management, legal, public information and health professionals twice a year, in the spring in Canada and fall/winter in the United States. The IEMG has entered into an emergency management compact similar to the U.S. Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). The IEMG Operations Manual was developed from the EMAC Manual.

There was an extraordinary amount of work accomplished during this conference. The Operations subcommittee worked on the IEMG Operations Manual to ensure it is NIMS/ICS compliant. The Strategic subcommittee developed a five-year strategic plan that lays out the mission, goals and objectives for IEMG. The Legal and Health subcommittee continued to work on the legal issues of moving personnel and resources across borders during an emergency. The Public Information subcommittee submitted a work plan outlining its projects for informing the public during emergencies and disasters that involve both countries.

The next IEMG conference will be held in Quebec City, Quebec, May 24-26, 2006.

IT'S TIME TO APPLY FOR FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE - The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program provides funding to states, Indian tribal governments and communities to implement cost-effective measures that reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes and other structures insurable under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The long-term goal of FMA is to reduce or eliminate claims under the NFIP through mitigation activities.

The FMA priority is to fund flood mitigation activities that reduce the number of repetitive loss properties identified in FEMA's Repetitive Loss Strategy. However, starting in 2005, funding was also awarded for eligible, cost-effective flood mitigation activities that will reduce the risk of flood losses to any property currently insured under the NFIP, whether a repetitive loss or not.

The Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) is currently soliciting Letters of Intent from communities interested in submitting an application for the Fiscal Year 2006 FMA program. For more information or to obtain a Letter of Intent form, go to: <http://nh.gov/oep/programs/floodplainmanagement/fma.htm> or call Sandrine Thibault at 603-271-2155.

The Letters of Intent must be received by OEP no later than Friday, January 13, 2006. Communities with projects likely to be funded will be contacted at the end of January to prepare a full application, which must be submitted to OEP by Friday, March 10, 2006.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANTS ALSO AVAILABLE - The N.H. Bureau of Emergency Management is currently soliciting Letters of Intent from local governments and state agencies interested in submitting an application for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Information is posted on the BEM website. Please go to: www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/emergencyservices/bem/HazardMitigation/haz_mat_grant_prog.html for more program information and to get a Letter of Intent form or call Richard Verville at 223-3619 for more details.

The Letters of Intent must be received by the Bureau of Emergency Management no later than Friday, March 3, 2006. Communities with eligible projects will be contacted at the end of March to prepare a full application.

UPCOMING EXERCISES - A number of state and local training exercises are scheduled for the early weeks of the new year. Hooksett will hold a local tabletop exercise on January 10. Berlin is hosting a regional North Country tabletop exercise for law enforcement and other emergency response personnel on January 18. The first of three, two-day Seabrook exercises will be held on January 24 and 25. Portsmouth Naval Shipyard has scheduled a communications exercise on January 10 and a tabletop with the N.H. EOC at the end of the month. And looking ahead to February 15, BEM Exercise Training Officer Leigh Cheney will be conducting an Exercise Planning Workshop. That workshop will help emergency management and public safety personnel to coordinate exercise activities being held in New Hampshire at the local, state and federal levels and prevent duplicate efforts.

For information on the Exercise Planning Workshop or other exercises, call Leigh Cheney at 223-3614.

MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS HEAR ABOUT OPERATION WELCOME HOME - Colonel Deborah Carter of the N.H. National Guard, Geoff Souther of the Department of Health and Human Services, Fred White of the Community Council of Nashua and Paul Deignan of BEM gave a presentation on Operation Welcome Home at the December 11th annual meeting of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors. Earlier this year, Governor Lynch launched the program in an effort to address the mental health needs of N.H. National Guard troops returning from active duty and their families. The presentation highlighted the issues that soldiers may face after deployment, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, marital difficulties, readjustment and substance abuse. A description of various initiatives in New Hampshire including Reunion and Re-Integration workshops, training for Natural Helpers, the development of a Resource Directory and brochures targeted to various groups was given.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has invited the New Hampshire delegation to repeat its presentation this March at the agency's conference on "The Road Home: National Conference on Returning Veterans and Their Families Behavioral Health".